



**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Hideki KOMATSUDA

Group Art Unit: 2881

Application No.: 10/687,770

Examiner: D. Vanore

Filed: October 20, 2003

Docket No.: 105193.05

For: ILLUMINATION SYSTEM AND EXPOSURE APPARATUS AND METHOD

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the August 9, 2004 Office Action, the shortened statutory period for reply being extended by the attached Petition for Extension of Time, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application. Claims 1-20 are pending.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,573,978 to McGuire, Jr. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

McGuire, Jr. has an earliest U.S. filing date of January 26, 1999. The present application claims priority from, *inter alia*, Japanese Patent Application No. 10-47400, filed February 27, 1998, and Japanese Patent Application No. 10-263673, filed September 17, 1998. The two Japanese patent applications mentioned above fully support the claims of this application. Because the Japanese filing dates of the two Japanese priority applications are well prior to the January 26, 1999 U.S. filing date of McGuire, Jr., McGuire, Jr. does not qualify as a reference under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Applicant submits accurate translations of the certified copies of Japanese Patent Application No. 10-47400 and Japanese Patent Application No. 10-263673 herewith for the Examiner's consideration, in order to perfect Applicant's right of priority. See, for example, MPEP 201.15. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Mario A. Costantino  
Registration No. 33,565

MAC/ccs

Attachments:

Accurate Translation of Japanese Application No. 10-47400  
Accurate Translation of Japanese Application No. 10-263673  
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: December 6, 2004

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

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